

Amendments to the Claims

The Claims and their present statuses after entry of the Claims filed 27 June 2003, are:

1-39. (Nonelected and cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter comprising DNA, ~~substantially free of added nucleases~~ additionally comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: basic polypeptides, polyamines, trivalent and tetravalent metal ions substantially free of added nucleases, and containing less than 3% by weight RNA and comprising a stripping solution selected from the group consisting of alcohols, salt solutions and mixtures thereof.

40. (Previously Added) A composition of Claim 39 additionally comprising less than 0.0001 weight% RNase.

41. (Previously Added) A composition of Claim 39 comprising a plasmid DNA encoding proteins for use as a vaccine.

42. (Previously Added) A composition of Claim 41 wherein the protein comprises influenza proteins.

43. (Previously Added) The composition of Claim 39 additionally comprising a content of eukaryotic ribonucleases of less than 0.1% by weight.

44. (Cancelled)

45. A composition of Claim 39 comprising less than 0.3 Units endotoxin per microgram plasmid DNA (EU/ μ g or IE/ μ g).

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A composition of Claim 39 additionally comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: polylysine, protamine, spermidine, spermine, cadaverine hexamine cobalt, chloropentamine cobalt, chromium (III)), netropsin, distamycin, lexitropans, DAPI (4', 6 diamino 2-phenylindol and manganese chloride.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A composition of Claim 39 -- additionally comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: basic polypeptides, polyamines, trivalent and tetravalent metal ions (~~i.e. hexamine cobalt, chloropentamine cobalt, chromium (III)), netropsin, distamycin, lexitropans, DAPI (4', 6 diamino 2-phenylindol), berenil, pentamidine, and manganese chloride.~~

52. (Previously Added) A composition of Claim 39 additionally comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: polylysine, protamine, spermidine, spermine, cadaverine hexamine cobalt, chloropentamine cobalt, chromium (III)), netropsin, distamycin, lexitropans, DAPI (4', 6 diamino 2-phenylindol) and manganese chloride.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) A composition of Claim ~~additionally~~ comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: hexamine cobalt, chloropentamine cobalt, chromium (III)), netropsin, distamycin, lexitropans, DAPI (4', 6 diamino 2-phenylindol), berenil,

~~pentamidine, and manganese chloride basic polypeptides, polyamines, trivalent and tetravalent metal ions (i.e. hexammine cobalt, chloropentammine cobalt, chromium (III)), netropsin, distamycin, lexitropans, DAPI (4', 6 diamino 2-phenylindol), berenil, pentamidine, and manganese chloride.~~

55. (Currently Amended) A composition of Claim 39 additionally comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: polylysine, protamine, spermidine, spermine, cadaverine hexammine cobalt, chloropentammine cobalt, chromium (III)), netropsin, distamycin, lexitropans, DAPI (4', 6 diamino 2-phenylindol) and manganese chloride.

56. (Original) A composition of Claim 39 substantially free of animal-derived proteins and of non-host-derived ribonucleases.

57. (Original) A composition of Claim 41 substantially free of animal-derived proteins and of non-host-derived ribonucleases.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Newly added) A composition of Claim 39 wherein the stripping solution comprises ethanol.

60. (Newly added) A composition of Claim 39 wherein the stripping solution comprises a salt that raises ionic strength.

61. (Newly added) A composition of Claim 39 wherein the stripping solution comprises a salt selected from the group consisting of NaCl and KCl.

62. (Newly Added) A composition of matter comprising DNA, comprising compaction agent selected from the group consisting of: basic polypeptides, polyamines, trivalent and tetravalent

metal ions substantially free of added nucleases, and containing less than 3% by weight RNA and of sufficiently low ionic strength that the DNA is substantially insoluble.

63. (Newly added) A composition of Claim 39 additionally comprising a chelating agent selected from the group consisting of:

EDTA (ETHYLENEDIAMINETETRAACETIC ACID):

Nitrilotriacetic acid, NTA: $N(CH_2COOH)_3$

Hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid, HEDTA:=20

$(HOOCH_2C)_2NCH_2CH_2N(CH_2COOH)(CH_2CH_2OH)$

Diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, DTPA:=20

$(HOOCH_2C)_2NCH_2CH_2N(NCH_2COOH)CH_2CH_2N(CH_2COOH)_2$

1,2-Diaminopropanetetraacetic acid, 1,2-PDTA

$(HOOCH_2C)_2NCH(CH_3)CH_2N(CH_2COOH)_2$

1,3-Diaminopropanetetraacetic acid, 1,3-PDTA:

$(HOOCH_2C)_2NCH_2CH_2CH_2N(CH_2COOH)_2$

2,2'-Bis[4-Ethylenedioxybis[ethyliminodi(acetic acid)]], EGTA:=20

$(HOOCH_2C)_2NCH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_2N(CH_2COOH)_2$

Bis(carboxymethyl)diaza-18-crown-6,

$(HOOCH_2C)_2N(CH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_2)_2N(CH_2COOH)_2$

1,10-bis(2-pyridylmethyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazadecane, BPTETA:=20 and

$(C_6H_4N)CH_2NHCH_2CH_2NHCH_2CH_2NHCH_2CH_2NHCH_2(C_6H_4N)$